

Serial No. 10/022,655
Amendment dated October 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 comprising:
 recording the amount of time that the channel was viewed; and
 selecting identifiers with the top indicators and view times for inclusion within the list of automatic favorite channels.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of selecting further includes:

 comparing the channel tune count indicator associated with a particular identifier with channel tune count indicators in the list of automatic favorite channels to determine if the channel tune count indicator is greater than any other channel tune count indicator in the list of automatic favorite channels; and

 adding the particular identifier and the associated channel tune count indicator to the list of automatic favorite channels if the channel tune count indicator is greater than any other channel tune count indicator in the list of automatic favorite channels.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically flagging one or more tunable channels broadcast over a distribution network as a favorite channel, the method comprising:

 monitoring commands input by a user through the use of an input device to detect a command from the user to tune a channel;

 recording an identifier for the channel and incrementing a channel tune count indicator for the channel;

 selecting identifiers corresponding to top channel tune count indicators for inclusion within a list of automatic favorite channels, wherein the list of automatic

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favorite channels is associated with the Identifier and the indicator for each channel contained therein;

aging the list of automatic favorite channels by automatically decrementing the associated channel tune count indicator for any Identifier in the list of automatic favorite channels when the channel tune count indicator for a channel associated with the any identifier is not incremented within a time period that exceeds a predetermined period;

determining whether the channel tune count indicator associated with a channel in the list of automatic favorite channels falls below a view threshold value; and

removing from the list of automatic favorite channels any Identifier whose associated channel tune count indicator falls below a the view threshold value.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting further includes determining whether the channel tune count indicator associated with a channel exceeds the view threshold value, the view threshold value being related substantially to an Nth highest channel tune count indicator.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting further includes determining whether the channel tune count indicator associated with a channel exceeds the view threshold value, the view threshold value being related substantially to a user defined value.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of selecting further includes determining whether the channel tune count indicator associated with a channel exceeds the view threshold value, the view threshold value being related substantially to a value set dynamically by a content service provider.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 comprising:

comparing a duration that the channel is viewed against a time threshold; and
recording the identifier and incrementing the associated channel tune count indicator when the channel is viewed for a duration greater than the time threshold.

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10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 comprising receiving indication of a selection of a favorite control on the input device to traverse the list of automatic favorite channels.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the list of automatic favorite channels is traversed one channel for each time the indication of selection of the favorite control is received.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the list of automatic favorite channels is traversed during channel tuning in order according to a rank of the channels in the list of automatic favorites.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 comprising:
displaying an electronic program guide;
retrieving the list of automatic favorite channels;
limiting the scope of information presented by the electronic program guide to programming available on channels comprising the list of automatic favorite channels.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 comprising:
receiving guide data comprising information regarding programming available on the distribution network;
extracting programming information relating to programs comprising the list of automatic favorite channels from the guide data for presentation within the electronic program guide.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of displaying comprises displaying a full screen program guide comprising listings of programming available on the distribution network.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of displaying comprises displaying a full screen program guide comprising audio and video associated with the

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channel viewed before the guide is displayed.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 comprising:

determining a time of day and a day of the week;
based upon the day and time, selecting identifiers with the top indicators for inclusion within a time specific list of automatic favorite channels.

18. (Currently Amended) Computer readable media comprising program code, the program code capable of being executed by a programmable microprocessor, the program code comprising a method for automatically flagging one or more channels broadcast over a distribution network as a favorite channel, the method comprising:

monitoring commands input by a user through the use of an input device to detect a command from the user to tune a channel;

recording an identifier for the channel and incrementing a channel tune count indicator for the channel; and

selecting identifiers corresponding to top indicators for inclusion within a list of automatic favorite channels, wherein the list of automatic favorite channels is associated with the identifier and the indicator for each channel contained therein;

aging the list of automatic favorite channels by automatically decrementing the associated channel tune count indicator for any identifier in the list of automatic favorite channels when the channel tune count indicator for a channel associated with the any identifier is not incremented within a time period that exceeds a predetermined period;

determining whether the channel tune count indicator associated with a channel in the list of automatic favorite channels falls below a view threshold value; and

removing from the list of automatic favorite channels any identifier whose associated channel tune count indicator falls below a the view threshold value.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically flagging one or more channels broadcast over a distribution network as a favorite channel, the system comprising:

means for monitoring commands input by a user through the use of an input device to detect a command from the user to tune a channel;

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means for recording an identifier for the channel and incrementing a channel tune count indicator for the channel; and

means for selecting identifiers corresponding to top indicators for inclusion within a list of automatic favorite channels, wherein the list of automatic favorite channels is associated with the identifier and the indicator for each channel contained therein;

means for aging the list of automatic favorite channels by automatically decrementing the associated channel tune count indicator for any identifier in the list of automatic favorite channels when the channel tune count indicator for a channel associated with the any identifier is not incremented within a time period that exceeds a predetermined period;

means for determining whether the channel tune count indicator associated with a channel in the list of automatic favorite channels falls below a view threshold value;
and

means for removing from the list of automatic favorite channels any identifier whose associated channel tune count indicator falls below a the view threshold value.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically flagging one or more channels broadcast over a distribution network as a favorite channel, the system comprising:

a channel list and view count data structure comprising a listing of channels viewed by a user and the number of times each channel has been tuned;

favorite selection software to record an identifier for a channel and increment and decrement a channel tune count indicator for the channel according to prescribed criteria, the identifier and indicator stored in the channel list and view count data structure, the favorite selection software operative to select recorded identifiers with the top indicators for inclusion within a list of automatic favorite channels, to age the list of automatic favorite channels by automatically decrementing the associated channel tune count indicator for any identifier in the list of automatic favorite channels when the channel tune count indicator for a channel associated with the any identifier is not incremented within a time period that exceeds a predetermined period, to determine whether the channel tune count indicator associated with a channel in the list of automatic favorite channels falls below a view threshold value, and to remove an

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identifier from the list of automotive favorites whose associated channel tune count indicator falls below a the view threshold value.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the data structure and software is stored on a memory of a set top terminal connected to the distribution network.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 5 wherein the identifier for a particular channel includes information conveying the particular channel and a service carried on that channel.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 5 further including the step of causing an icon to be displayed when a channel being viewed is on the list of automatic favorite channels.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 5 wherein the predetermined period is one 24-hour period.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 9 wherein the predetermined period is one 24-hour period.

30. (Cancelled)

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31. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 10 wherein the predetermined period is one 24-hour period.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 13 wherein the predetermined period is one 24-hour period.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 17 wherein the predetermined period is one 24-hour period.